

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1           1. (currently amended) A method for preparing a  
2 protective layer for an aluminum-containing alloy of the Fe-Al, Fe-  
3 Cr-Al, Ni-Al or Ni-Cr-Al type the method comprising ~~[[using]]~~ the  
4 following steps of:

5                 forming depositing Ni, Fe, Cr, or Ti on the surface of  
6 the alloy in an oxygen atmosphere to form on the alloy an oxide  
7 layer exhibiting having non-aluminum-containing oxides; and

8                 heating the alloy to temperatures to above 800°C such  
9 that the non-aluminum-containing oxides on the surface of the alloy  
10 inhibit the formation of metastable aluminum oxides and  
11 substantially only  $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> oxides form.

1           2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1  
2 wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the non-aluminum-containing oxide layer ~~[[at]]~~ has a  
3 maximum thickness of 5000 nm ~~, especially only 1000 nm, and~~  
4 ~~especially advantageously only 100 nm, is formed.~~

3. (canceled)

1           4. (currently amended) The method according to the  
2 previous claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein the deposition is realized by  
3 vaporization and condensing or cathode sputtering.

5. (canceled)

1           6. (currently amended) The method according to the  
2 previous claim [[5]] 1 wherein the deposition is done through  
3 vaporization and condensing, cathode sputtering or galvanic  
4 deposition ~~is realized~~.

1           7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1  
2 wherein for the formation of [[a]] the non-aluminum-containing  
3 oxide layer an aluminum-containing alloy is introduced into a  
4 chloride- [[and/]] or ~~fluorite-containing~~ fluoride-containing  
5 medium ~~, whereby~~ such that a corresponding oxide or hydroxide layer  
6 forms ~~at the~~ on a surface of the aluminum-containing alloy from an  
7 alloy metal that is not aluminum.

1           8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7,  
2 further comprising the step of wherein  
3 introducing an aluminum-containing alloy ~~is introduced~~  
4 into the medium over a period of one minute to five hours.

1           9. (original) The method according to claim 7 wherein  
2 the aluminum-containing component is introduced into the medium at  
3 temperatures between 30 and 100°C.

1           10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1  
2 wherein for the formation of [[a]] the non-aluminum-containing  
3 oxide layer, the aluminum-containing alloy is heated to a  
4 temperature below 800°C , ~~especially a temperature in the 500 to~~  
5 ~~800°C range~~, whereby a corresponding oxide layer forms at the  
6 surface of the aluminum-containing alloy from an alloy metal that  
7 is not aluminum.